

Law Enforcement Assistance Program

Law enforcement personnel are frequently exposed to dangerous work environments, risks of civil liability, public scrutiny, and repeated exposure to traumatic events. Families of law enforcement personnel must cope with the absences that result from shift work schedules as well as the threat of potential harm to, or loss of, their loved one. Federal Occupational Health (FOH) recognizes that the unique occupational stressors that law enforcement personnel and their families are frequently exposed to require specialized services. The Law Enforcement Assistance Program is designed to meet the particular needs of this group of professionals.

Law enforcement officers are often reluctant to seek out professional support for a variety of reasons. Often, the traits that help officers perform their jobs effectively can also prevent them from acknowledging a need for help. Officers, who have been trained to act independently and maintain constant emotional control, may view the need for support services as a sign of personal weakness. Furthermore, officers may normalize the negative effects of prolonged stress and just accept that it is “part of the job”. Even if they recognize that they would benefit from it, they may avoid the Employee Assistance Program if they feel that the counselors are “civilians”, who will not understand the nature of their work. The Law Enforcement Assistance Program is especially sensitive to this issue and is staffed with professionals who have law enforcement experience.

These are some of the services that FOH’s Law Enforcement Assistance Program offers:

Panel of Law Enforcement Counselors

By dialing a toll-free telephone number and requesting entry into the law enforcement network, law enforcement personnel and their families have access to FOH’s nationwide panel of counselors. FOH Law Enforcement Assistance Program counselors have experience working with law enforcement personnel and their families, and understand the unique occupational stressors encountered by these professionals.

Confidentiality

Law Enforcement Assistance Program counselors are bound by ethics and individual state laws that protect communications with clients. Various state and Federal statutes and Federal regulations protect these communications and, except for rare instances such as the intent to commit harm to self or others, contacts with counselors are held in strict confidence.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

FOH has a network of professionally trained counselors with experience in providing CISM services to law enforcement personnel who have been involved in a critical incident. Counselors provide management consultations, defusings and/or debriefings in the aftermath of critical incidents.

Law Enforcement Management Consultations

When officers or employees are having difficulties, their job performance or behavior can be impacted. For example, there may be an increase in citizen complaints, minor traffic incidents, excessive force complaints, or increased absenteeism. FOH counselors assist managers by identifying problematic behavior and supporting the manager in making crucial decisions about an officer or employee, such as a decision to make a formal referral to the Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

Training

A variety of workshops are available on request. Oriented toward law enforcement, examples of workshops include Prevention of Workplace Violence, Officer Suicide Prevention, Stress Management for Law Enforcement, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Critical Incident Management for Supervisors.

For over half a century, FOH has delivered high quality occupational health services to Federal managers. FOH's knowledge of the Federal workplace, combined with strategic partnerships with professional health, environmental and safety organizations, enables FOH to help other Federal organizations maintain a safe and healthy workplace. FOH has created a team of professionals that is unparalleled in its ability to work within the Federal structure, yet remains as flexible and innovative as any private sector provider.

Through convenient interagency agreements, FOH's Clinical Services, Wellness/Fitness Programs, Environmental Health Services, and Employee Assistance, and Work/Life Programs can provide your agency with a comprehensive occupational health program that saves you time and money. Our ability to customize services enables you to integrate components of our services with existing programs, enhancing their impact and ensuring that your agency meets its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at www.foh.dhhs.gov or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.

Because you need a healthy work force. And we can help you build one.